Investment in the Floriculture Research and Extension Programmes

7410. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise investment in the Floriculture Research and Extension Programmes during the last three years in the country particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) the sector-wise break-up of such investments in the irrigated areas, rainfed areas and dry land farming;

(c) the percentage-wise proportions of these sectors in terms of cultivable land to the total cultivated land in the country including Gujarat State;

(d) the percentage proportion in terms of output of these sectors; and

(e) the future plan for investment in floriculture research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The investment on floriculture Research and Extension during last three years was Rs. 118.47, 280.20 and 270.89 lakh for the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively and for Gujarat State it was Rs. 2.65 lakh.

(b) to (d) Since the floriculture crops are grown under irrigated conditions, the investment made was only for irrigated areas. The exact estimate of area under floriculture is not possible to work out the percentage-wise proportions of irrigated, rainfed and dryland farming in terms of cultivable land to the total cultivable land and their output.

(e) Approximately Rs. 350 lakhs will be invested on floriculture in next two years.

...orage Facilities in the Country

4. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Mi...ister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the cold storages indicating the capacity of the same available in the country particularly in the State of Punjab, State-wise/ District-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the potato cultivators are facing hardships due to lack of proper facilities for storage of potatoes in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures Government propose to take to solve the cold storages problems faced by the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There are 3156 cold storages in the country with installed capacity of 85.77 lakh tonnes. In Punjab, there are 309 cold storage with installed capacity of 5.71 lakh tonnes. The Statewise and district wise breakup in Punjab is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(b) There is no recent report regarding hardships faced by farmers due to lack of proper facilities for storage of potatoes in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) (i) The National Horticulture Board is providing assistance in the form of soft loan @ of 50% cost to the maximum limit for cold storage and pre-cooling unit of Rs. 35.00 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh respectively. The Board has provided financial assistance under its scheme "Integrated project on Management of Post Harvest infrastructure of horticulture crops for establishing 42 cold storage and 121 pre-cooling Units in the country upto 1994-95.

(ii) National Cooperative Development Corporation provides 90% of the total cost to the State Governments for cold storage of potato and the remaining amount is to be made by beneficiaries Societies. This assistance has been liberalised by providing 50% of the cost as Share Capital and 40% as loan by the State Government. For the weaker